



News Release

Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests &
Thunder Basin National Grassland
<http://fs.usda.gov/mbf>

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Evacuations Ordered for New Wildland Fire Burning on Medicine Bow National Forest

(LARAMIE, Wyo.) July 1, 2012 – Burning in beetle-killed timber, the Squirrel Creek Fire continues to grow in southern Albany County. It is being driven towards the north/northeast by variable and gusty winds, dry fuels, and high temperatures. The fire is currently burning on the Medicine Bow National Forest about 30 miles southwest of Laramie.

Evacuation orders were activated on Sunday afternoon by the Albany County Sheriff's Office for residents along the Fox Creek Road. Pre-evacuation notices, which were initiated on Sunday morning, remain in effect for the communities of Woods Landing, Fox Park and Albany.

A Type III Incident Management Team is currently managing the fire. Fire management actions include structure protection and assisting the Sheriff's Department with safely evacuating residents and the public.

Around 65 personnel are currently assigned to the fire, including several engines as well as ground and air resources. Additional ground and air support resources have been ordered.

A Red Flag Warning is in effect for the fire area until 9 p.m. Weather forecasts are calling for continued hot and dry conditions throughout the week with spotty thunderstorms possible early in the week.

Rugged terrain and beetle-killed timber will also make fire-fighting operations more difficult. Firefighter and public safety will remain a high priority throughout the incident. There is currently no estimate on containment for the fire.

The cause of the fire which has been burning since Saturday afternoon is under investigation.

Due to continued smoke being generated by several fires within the region, a Smoke and Air Quality Specialist has been ordered to the Rocky Mountain area to help gather and assess pertinent and timely changes in smoke production to determine the likelihood and severity of smoke impacts. This information will be transmitted to local and state air quality and health agencies for their use in issuing air quality cautions and warnings.

As information becomes available, updates will be provided by Public Affairs staff from the Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests and Thunder Basin National Grassland on Twitter at:

@MBRNFsTBNG, hashtag **#SquirrelCreekFire** and at InciWeb, <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/2970/>.

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